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Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-01 /023 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:JBLANCHARD:EF
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
EUR/CE:S.KLINGAMAN
EPA/OIA:F.FULLER
----------046197 182244Z /66
O 182230Z AUG 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIT, ECEM, SENV, GW

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY ON STORAGE OF US-ORIGIN TOXIC CHEMICALS

REF:(A) FRANKFURT 6530; (B) STATE 182857

1. CONGEN MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONDING TO HESSIAN AUTHORITIES:

GERMAN STORAGE SITE BELIEVED TO HAVE UNUSUAL SAFETY ASPECTS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE DOMESTICALLY. SALT MINES OFFER UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS WHEN DRUMS REMAIN ON PALLETS AND DO NOT NEED TO BE OPENED OR MANUALLY HANDLED. PLACEMENT OF DRUMS IN A DRY, CONSTANT TEMPERATURE ATMOSPHERE AND ELEVATED ABOVE FLOOR SHOULD ELIMINATE CONTAINER DEGRADATION, THUS ENSURING SAFE AND PERMANENT STORAGE.

TAKING BOTH HANDLING AND STORAGE INTO ACCOUNT, FRG SITE CONFIDENTIAL

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APPEARS TO OFFER LEAST POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN OR ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE. NO SITE OF ITS KIND HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE US; HOWEVER, SOME NUCLEAR WASTE MATERIAL IS STORED IN SALT MINES.

2. FYI: CONGEN SHOULD AVOID GIVEN CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES THAT KALI UND SALZ A.G. STORAGE SITE IS UNIQUE.

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A NUMBER OF DISPOSAL/STORAGE ALTERNATIVES HAVE BEEN TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE DOMESTICALLY AND MORE RECENTLY IN WALES. THESE HAVE BEEN, HOWEVER, POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE, THUS FORCING ALLIED TO CONSIDER OTHER AVENUES, WITH KALI UND SALZ, A.G. AS THE RESULT. USG HAS ALLOWD REMOVAL OF KEPONE/ARSENIC WASTES FROM BALTIMORE BASED ON PERMITS ISSUED TO ALLIED BY FRG. AS OF THIS DATE, ONLY 70 OF APPROXIMATELY 900 DRUMS REMAIN IN BALTIMORE, OTHERS EITHER ENROUUTE OR AT STORAGE SITE IN FRG. SHOULD FRG REVOKE PERMITS ISSUED TO KALI UND SALZ, A.G. STATUS OF THESE MATERIALS HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED. IN LIGHT OF THE POSSIBLITY OF RESHIPMENT TO US, THIS WOULD INCREASE THE PROBABILITY OF POTENTIAL HUMAN OR ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE AND FURTHER ACTION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE SITUATION. END FYI. VANCE

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